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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/595,184	03/20/2006	Jens Hedegaard	037649-4	4093

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ROBERTS MLOTKOWSKI SAFRAN & COLE, P.C.
Intellectual Property Department
P.O. Box 10064
MCLEAN, VA 22102-8064

EXAMINER

SUTTON, ANDREW W

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3765

NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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10/27/2009

ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/595,184	Applicant(s) HEDEGAARD, JENS	
	Examiner ANDREW W. SUTTON	Art Unit 3765	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 3/20/06.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 9-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 9-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 20 March 2006 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

The drawings are objected to as they fail to show the details of the invention due to the fuzzy lines and shading, particularly Figs. 1-3.

The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4) because reference character “2” has been used to designate both fur and a machine (Fig. 5). Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either “Replacement Sheet” or “New Sheet” pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: The applicant submitted a “marked up” copy of the specification and a “replacement copy” which do not result in the same text. Clarification is needed as to which specification should be used. The following action is based on the replacement copy as it

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 9-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hedegaard (WO 02/44428). Hedegaard teaches a pelting machine including a pelt board 4 comprising a holding means 10 for holding a lower end of the board and gripping elements 8, 16 for fastening the pelt 6 substantially gripping the whole periphery of the pelt, the gripping parts having inner and outer parts where the inner parts 16 are engagable between a surface of the pelt board 4 and the leather side of the pelt 6 and the outer parts 8 being placed towards the fur side of the pelt 6. The stretching of the pelt is done by displacing the holding means 10 from the gripping means 16. Hedegaard teaches (page 5 lines 13-19) the use of a bag to secure the pelt to the board and loosening of the gripping means and holding means.

As to claim 10 and 12, Hedegaard teaches (page 5 lines 1-6) a vibrator unit 20 which provides vibration on pelt board in the longitudinal direction. The vibration would be felt on the gripping and holding means.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

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(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 13 and 15-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hedegaard (WO 02/44428) in view of Johanson (US 2,147,039). Hedegaard teaches the device substantially above. Hedegaard does not teach the specific structure of the inner parts. Johanson (Fig. 4) teaches a part having an upper counter hold flange (left side) where a track cooperates with a pressure flange (right side) where the shapes correspond. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the clamping structure of Hedegaard with that of Johanson to provide a secure attached to the pelt.

As to claim 15, Hedegaard teaches the device substantially above. Hedegaard does not teach sides of the inner parts extending in a concave manner. Johanson teaches a stretching device having a concave surface 12. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the holding surface of Hedegaard with that of Johanson to provide a fit to various shapes of pelts.

As to claim 16, holding mean 8 are held by flanges that stand up (transversely) from a planar part.

Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hedegaard (WO 02/44428) in view of Barnes. As to claim 14, Hedegaard teaches the device substantially above. Hedegaard does not teach the specific structure of the inn parts connections. Barnes (Figs. 1-5) teaches two open similarly shape but lateral reversed half parts 11 that are displaceable towards one another and are housed on a

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bracket 21 which are displaceable towards each other via a pivot connection 20 where the two half parts can be actuated so that the parts can be actuated from a position where in substantial contact to that where they are at a distance. The flanges 19 can be actuated at a position where they are in contact to that where they are at a distance via actuator 17.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. See form PTO-892.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ANDREW W. SUTTON whose telephone number is (571)272-6093. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday 6:45-5:15.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gary L. Welch can be reached on (571) 272-4996. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

AWS

29 September 2009

/Shaun R Hurley/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3765